

helping with the preservation of their heritage. His commitment to unity resulted in Moon being presented the Americanism Award by the Society of Daughters of the American Revolution in 2005.

In April of 2005, Moon was elected as a Trustee for York Township, becoming the first Asian American to be elected to that office and the first Muslim elected to government office in the State of Illinois. As a result of his commitment to serving the Asian American community, Moon was appointed as the Asian American Liaison of the DuPage County Republican Party.

Moon Khan has been an advocate for the rights of immigrants, Muslims, and other ethnic groups. His committed service to empowering all ethnicities has affected countless lives throughout the State of Illinois.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Moon Khan is a remarkable man who has dedicated his life to serving the people of DuPage County and the State of Illinois. Please join me in honoring him for his public service and recognizing the important work he is doing to build a stronger, better America.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding a district funding request as part of H.R. 6599, the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act, 2009.

1. Florida Army National Guard, Regional Training Institute (RTI) Phase IV at Camp Blanding, FL (Department of Defense, Army National Guard) Project ID: 04ee1.

This project is to complete construction of the RTI at the Camp Blanding Training Site, FL. The readiness of the Florida Army National Guard and Air National Guard in general will be affected if the school cannot adequately accomplish its mission to train soldiers. The student quota continues to grow with the need for new training requirements.

The new campus will serve the full-time mission of the RTI. The completion of the new campus will allow the school to accept all projected students and to provide the support needed to run the regional school. The new campus will provide the school with the area required to adequately perform its essential mission. It will house, feed, teach, and train all students attending the institute; students are from all fifty states and territories. The school averages 800 students per cycle.

DON PITTMAN

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to honor long-time restaurateur Don Pittman, as he was inducted into the Texas Restaurant Association Hall of Honor in June

2008. From Bar-B-Q to fresh seafood to Cajun delights, Texans take their food very seriously. For Don to receive this honor, he must have done some significant work.

Pittman has been in the restaurant business for almost forty years. His career began in 1970 in Fredericksburg, Texas. He spent some time in Austin before deciding that he should branch out and carve a place for himself. He searched for a location with a community with a positive attitude and decided that Southeast Texas was the best place to start.

Don moved to Beaumont in 1985 and opened eight Short Stop Burger locations across Southeast Texas. He operated these restaurants in Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Orange until the late 1990s. In 1998, he opened a Schlotzky's Deli in Beaumont and another in Port Arthur in 2002. Pittman will serve as President of the Sabine Area Restaurant Association beginning this August. This will be his second term, as he previously served from 1991–1993.

The Texas Restaurant Association Hall of Honor is the highest recognition that a member of the Association can receive. Winners are selected by a committee made up of past TRA presidents and Hall of Honor members. Individuals are honored for their commitment to the foodservice industry, the Association and their communities. This year, they chose to honor Don Pittman for his continuing excellence in serving Southeast Texas.

On behalf of the Second Congressional District of Texas, I applaud Don Pittman for his dedication to serving some of the best food in the entire State of Texas.

SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAY WORDS OF INSPIRATION FROM FALLUJAH, IRAQ

HON. C. W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, Americans all over our Nation honored our fallen heroes for Memorial Day. We gathered in our national cemeteries, at veterans posts, and at town halls to say thank you to those who paid the ultimate price for freedom and to their families who suffered the greatest of losses.

Many forget that today's heroes also celebrated Memorial Day in the far corners of the world, including the deserts of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan. One such Memorial Day ceremony took place in Fallujah, Iraq, the site of some of the fiercest fighting and where many of our troops gave their lives.

Marine Corps Major General John F. Kelly led the service for our troops in Fallujah saying, "There is something about looking out at real Americans who know the price paid for our protection, and the world's freedoms. Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines—heroes all."

General Kelly knows personally of service and sacrifice, as he is on his third tour of duty commanding Marines in Iraq, his third tour away from his family. He also has two sons serving as Marines in Iraq.

General Kelly told his Marines, "Our countrymen at home should be on their knees every day thanking God we still have enough

young people in America today willing to take up the fight as our veterans did from the earliest days of our Nation. They should know that they are protected today by men and women as good as have ever served; as good today as their fathers were in Vietnam, and their grandfathers were in Korea and World War II. In this, my third tour in Iraq, I have never seen an American hesitate, or do anything other than lean into the danger and, with no apparent fear of death or injury, take the fight to the enemies of our way of life."

Those who serve make many sacrifices including having to endure the horror of war. As General Kelly told his troops, "You are all heroes and like many veterans throughout our history, many of us have endured things—sights, sounds and horrors—that will haunt us for the rest of our lives. I know I find great comfort that because I am here those I love and have sworn to protect will never have to deal with memories so terrible. I hope you who have seen these things have the same sense of purpose and balance when you relive the scenes of violence, and of decisions made. America's Armed Forces today know the price of being the finest men and women this nation has to offer, and pay it we do every day in Iraq and Afghanistan."

Madam Speaker, following my remarks, I would like to include for the benefit of my colleagues the full text of General Kelly's letter to his Marines. It is from the heart and it is to the point of what every American service member and their families give to our Nation in the defense of freedom and liberty. General Kelly concludes his message by reading a letter no officer wants to write, that to the mother or father, husband or wife, brother or child of a fallen warrior. In this case it is to the mother of Jonathan Yale, a Marine who died protecting an Entry Control Point in Ramadi, Iraq from a suicide bomber driving a truck loaded with explosives. He and fellow Marine Jordan Haerter fired upon the truck until it exploded before breaching their security point. They both died during their job that day and in so doing saved the lives of 50 other Marines and countless Iraqi policemen.

General Kelly wrote to Jonathan's mother, "I have 25,000 Marines under my care here in Iraq, and I fear for their lives every minute of every day as if they were my own. They are out there every day and every night patrolling the most dangerous places on earth for millions of people at home they do not even know. In times of weakness I wonder why they come, young men like Jonathan, why they come when no one makes them. When everything in our society seems to say "what's in it for me," those like your son think of others—not themselves."

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that every member of this House will read General Kelly's powerful and poignant words and take them to heart as we thank him and every American who goes into harm's way on a daily basis to protect us and our way of life.

MAY 25, 2008.

WORDS FROM A MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY IN FALLUJAH, IRAQ

FALLUJAH, IRAQ.—Major General John F. Kelly dispatched a letter from Iraq stating that they held their Memorial Day ceremony in Fallujah today and it was inspiring.

"Something about looking out at real Americans who know the price paid for our protection, and the world's freedoms. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Coast Guardsmen and Marines—heroes all," Kelly said.

The General continued: "First, a few statistics to ponder. There are twenty-five million living American Veterans. Since General George Washington commanded the Continental Army, forty-two million Americans have served the colors.

A million have been killed in its defense. Another million and a half wounded. When most of us think about military cemeteries the first thought that comes to mind is Arlington National in Washington, but there are many, many more in the U.S.

Most Americans also don't know there are 24 American cemeteries maintained overseas with 125,000 graves of our fallen—61,000 in France alone—the result of two wars that saved Europe and the world from horrors unimaginable to Americans today; unimaginable, that is, unless you are a Veteran who has seen the terrible face of war so those who remained safe in America, and those yet unborn, would never have to.

There are also memorials overseas to an additional 94,000 Americans who were lost at sea, or their remains never recovered from battlefields around the globe. With all this service and loss, we as Americans can be proud of the kind of people we are as we have never retained a square foot of any country we have defeated, we possess no empire, nor have we enslaved a single human being.

On the contrary, billions across the planet are today—and billions yet unborn—live free because our Veterans have fought and died, and, once peace achieved, we've rebuilt destroyed cities, economies, and societies.

Memorial Day was established three years after our terrible Civil War that finally established what kind of nation we would be. A war in which 600,000 young Americans—North and South—perished. For a century the day continued to mean visiting and decorating graves or town-square memorials to those who died serving our great nation, and celebrating with parades and civic events.

Americans kept the day quiet, pausing to remember, at least for a little while, the kind of men and women they were who gave the last full measure, and the immensity of the sacrifice they made for those who remained protected at home.

Americans should not forget this weekend or any weekend as they relax with a few days off that the country is at war, and a new Greatest Generation is fighting a merciless enemy on their behalf in the terrible heat of Iraq, and in the mountains of Afghanistan. Like it or not America is engaged in a war today against an enemy that is savage, offers no quarter, whose only objectives are to either kill every one of our families in our homeland, or enslave us with a sick form of extremism that serves no God or purpose that rational men and women can understand.

Given the opportunity to do another 9/11, our vicious enemy would do it today, tomorrow and every day thereafter. I don't know why they hate us, and I frankly don't care and they can all go to hell, but they do hate us and are driven irrationally to our destruction. The best way to fight them is somewhere else and that is why we are here. For whatever reason they want to destroy our way of life, our countrymen at home should be on their knees every day thanking God we still have enough young people in America today willing to take up the fight as our Veterans did from the earliest days of our nation.

They should know that they are protected today by men and women as good as have ever served; as good today as their fathers were in Vietnam, and their grandfathers were in Korea and World War II. In this my third tour in Iraq I have never seen an American hesitate, or do anything other than lean into the danger and, with no apparent fear of

death or injury, take the fight to the enemies of our way of life.

As anyone who has ever experienced combat knows, and many of you do, when it starts, when the explosions and tracers are everywhere and the calls for the Corpsman or medic are screamed from the throats of men who know they are dying—when seconds seem like hours and it all becomes slow motion and fast forward at the same time—everything in one's survival instinct says stop, get down, save yourself—yet you don't.

When no one would call you coward for cowering behind a wall or in a hole looking to your own self preservation, none of you do. It doesn't matter if it's an IED, a suicide bomber, mortar attack, fighting in the upstairs room of a house, or all of it at once—America should know you fight today in the same way our warriors have since the Revolution.

The wonderful thing about America's Armed Forces is that none of us are born killers. On the contrary we are good and decent Americans mostly from the neighborhoods of America's cities, and small towns. Almost all come from "salt of the earth" working class homes, and more often than not are the sons and daughters of cops and firemen, factory and service workers, and farmers.

Most of us delivered papers, stocked shelves in the grocery store, played Little League baseball and pickup hockey in the local rink, and served Mass on Sunday morning. Some are former athletes, and many "couch potatoes" who drove our cars and motorcycles too fast, and blasted our music louder than perhaps we should have.

We are all ordinary people performing remarkable acts of bravery and selfless acts of devotion to a cause bigger than ourselves—and for millions who will never know our names. Any one of us could have all stayed in school or gone another way, but yet we chose to serve knowing full well Iraq and Afghanistan was in our future. You did not avoid the most basic and cherished responsibility of a citizen—to defend the nation and its people—on the contrary, you went after it.

You did not fail in life, which the chattering class back home likes to believe is why you chose to serve and risk dying for the nation, but, rather, are the best our nation produces and have consciously put every American at home above your own self interest. You are all heroes and like many Veterans throughout our history many of us have endured things—sights, sounds and horrors—that will haunt us for the rest of our lives.

I know I find comfort that because I am here those I love and have sworn to protect will never have to deal with memories so terrible. I hope you who have seen these things have the same sense of purpose and balance when you relive the scenes of violence, and of decisions made. America's Armed Forces today know the price of being the finest men and women this nation has to offer, and pay it we do every day in Iraq and Afghanistan.

More than four thousand of us have died in this war, and ten-times this number have been wounded. And the sacrifice continues as young Americans have gone to God since we all went to bed last night and slept free and protected.

Their mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, wives, husbands, and fiancés are sitting in their living rooms right now with casualty officers learning the true price of freedom, and are only just beginning a life-long struggle of dealing with the pain and loss of someone so dear, but they are not victims as they knew what they were about and were doing what they wanted to do.

Many of today's self-proclaimed experts and media commentators endeavor to make

them out to be victims but they are wrong, and this only detracts from the decision these patriots made to step forward and protect the country that has given so much to all of us. We who are serving, and have served, demand not to be categorized as victims—we are not.

Those with less of a sense of service to the nation never understand it when strong and committed men and women stand tall and firm against our enemies, just as they can't begin to understand the price paid so they and their families can sleep safe and free at night—the protected never do.

What the experts, commentators, and elites are missing, what they will also never understand, is the sense of commitment, joy, and honor, of serving the nation in its uniform, but every American Veteran, and their loved ones who support them and fear for them every day, do understand.

We should all be confident that this experiment in democracy we call America will forever remain the "land of the free and home of the brave" so long as we never run out of tough young Americans willing to look beyond their own self interest and comfortable lives, and go into the darkest and most dangerous places on earth to hunt down, and kill, those who would do us harm.

In closing I wanted to share a story that you may not be aware of that took place only a few miles from here in Ramadi. On 22 April 2nd Battalion 8th Marines and 1st Battalion, 9th Marines were in the process of turning over a Joint Security Station Nasser.

It's in the Sophia district of Ramadi, and was once the center of the insurgency in that city. Two Marines who barely knew each other as one was coming and the other going were standing guard at the Entry Control Point (ECP); their names were Jonathan Yale and Jordan Haerter.

At 0745, and without warning, a large truck accelerated towards the ECP, careening off the protective serpentine. Both must have understood on instinct what was happening as in less than a second they went to the guns and opened fire until the massive 2,000 lb blast took their lives—but the suicide bomber never passed the post they protected, and 50 other Marines and perhaps as many police didn't die that day inside the JSS.

I spoke to several Iraqi police eyewitnesses and they all told the same story, but one more emotionally than the others.

He said no sane man would have stood there directly in the path of a speeding truck firing their weapons—yet two did. His officers, some as close as ten feet initially from the Marines, fired and ran when it was obvious the truck could not be stopped—and they survived. The Marines stood their ground and stopped the truck before it detonated, and saved the lives of their buddies.

A sacred duty of every commander in combat, yet the one we dread the most, is writing letters home to families who have lost a son or a daughter. I wanted to close by reading you a letter I wrote that night to the mother of one of those two heroes that for me sums up who and what we are as warriors and Veterans, why we serve, and how we will remember each other."

22 APRIL 2008.

I know there is nothing I can write tonight that will help you deal with the loss of your son Jonathan. I do hope you can find some comfort as I try to help you understand what he was doing for every American when he was taken from us all. He was standing watch on a nameless side street in Ramadi at the entrance of a compound that housed a large number of Marines, Iraqi Police, and civilians. In the early morning a truck turned down towards the entrance and ignored the visual warnings he gave to stop.

Jonathan and the Marine he was with must have sensed immediately what was taking place as they went to the guns quickly and fired a very high volume of automatic weapons fire, undoubtedly killing the suicide driver, but not before he detonated the massive blast that took their lives. His fellow Marines did what Marines have done from the beginning of our history, something they do almost without thinking and always without hesitation—they risked their own lives to save his, but he was already gone to God. Mrs. Pride, because of your son and that other Marine, nearly fifty other American families are not mourning tonight; their sons' lives were saved by two Marines who would not abandon their post even to the point of death.

I did not know your son, Mrs. Pride, but I am sure he was just like every Marine I have known in the three decades and more that I have served. Like my own two sons who are Marines and have served here in this war, I bet he was a good looking young man, fun loving, into sports and a good son—but not perfect—boys never are. He was also different, Mrs. Pride, because he chose to leave the comfortable and safe confines of his home and walk a different path than all the rest. The path he chose led him to be one of the nation's finest, to be a Marine. When he did not have to raise his right hand and swear before his God to serve and protect this nation and its people, he did just that. We all owe him an eternal debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. We also owe you, Tammy, and all who loved him a debt—one that can never be settled.

I have 25,000 Marines under my care here in Iraq, and I fear for their lives every minute of every day as if they were my own. They are out there every day and every night patrolling the most dangerous places on earth for millions of people at home they do not even know. In times of weakness I wonder why they come, young men like Jonathan, why they come when no one makes them. When everything in our society seems to say "what's in it for me," those like your son think of others—not themselves. I did not know your son, Mrs. Pride, but I will never forget him. I will keep him in my thoughts and prayers for the rest of my life.

With deepest sympathy,

Major General John F. Kelly, U.S. Marine Corps, Commanding General, I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward).

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, in accordance with House Republican Conference standards, and clause 9 of rule XXI, I submit the following member request for the RECORD. Funding for this request was contained in the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Requesting Member: Congressman PHIL GINGREY.

Bill Number: H.R. 6599.

Account: Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Georgia National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: Georgia Department of Defense, P.O. Box 1970, Marietta, GA 30061.

Description of Request: This request is in support of President Bush's FY '09 budget

submission and provides \$45,000,000 for a National Guard Joint Forces Headquarters and Readiness Center to be constructed at Naval Air Station (NAS) Atlanta. This project is contained in the Army National Guard's Future Years Defense Program, and funding for it is critical to ensure a smooth transition for the Georgia National Guard to NAS Atlanta by 2011.

This facility is required to house all elements of the Headquarters, Headquarters Detachment, and the 118th Personnel Service Detachment of the Georgia Army National Guard. It will also house the headquarters of the Georgia Air National Guard and the multiple departments of the Georgia Department of Defense. The readiness center will provide the necessary administrative, training, and storage areas required to achieve proficiency in required training tasks.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM STIFTER FOR HIS DEDICATION AND SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF WASHINGTON STATE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with the Eastern Washington community to celebrate and honor the life of Dr. William Stifter whose work with cardiac patients across our State has saved countless lives.

Dr. Stifter made significant contributions to cardiac care in our State. He personally provided local access to medical care for heart patients in rural communities across Eastern Washington and was a vital force in establishing higher standards for the care of cardiac patients. Bill risked his life for over 17 years driving through dangerous weather and road conditions to bring essential medical care to his patients living in remote parts of Eastern Washington. This dedication to his patients was also demonstrated by his efforts to continually improve the care he provided as a cardiologist.

Dr. Stifter was the first to achieve certification in using computed tomography, CT, in diagnosing and treating heart patients in our region. Without his leadership in this, the diagnostic attributes of the cardiac CT would not have been as readily available to patients in Eastern Washington. He was a leader in advancing cardiac care throughout his career; most recently leading the partnership of Lincoln Hospital, Sacred Heart Medical Center and MedStar towards adoption and implementation of the Level 1 AMI Emergency Program. This program has been recognized as the new standard for emergency treatment of cardiac patients across our State and is being broadly adopted. Because of his passion and leadership, the collaboration recently received a prestigious award from Qualis Health for Excellence in Healthcare Quality.

Bill's remarkable compassion and dedication to his fellow human beings continued through to the end of his life. In a tragic airplane accident in the frigid waters of Lake Chelan, Bill helped others get to safety at the price of his own life. His heroism and personal sacrifice at Lake Chelan are a testament to his integrity

and limitless commitment to helping his fellow human beings in need. He lived and breathed his passion of helping pioneer new standards of care for his patients and finding new ways to save lives up and until, tragically, his own death.

Madam Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dr. William Stifter for the tremendous care he showed for all of the people of Eastern Washington. He will be missed.

AMERICORPS NCCC WESTERN REGIONAL CAMPUS GRADUATION 2008

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and acknowledge 440 amazing young men and women that exemplify hope, dedication, and patriotism. Today, Class XIV graduates from the Western Regional Campus of the AmeriCorps NCCC program in Sacramento, California.

The National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) is a full time residential national service program conducting national service efforts across the country. This program is truly one of a kind and is an incredibly valuable asset to our nation. These volunteers support the foundation of our country's infrastructure: our educational system, homeland security defenses, and disaster recovery efforts. Their compassion and hope is essential to our civil society.

In a year that saw devastating tornados, catastrophic floods, dangerous wildfires, and continued recovery efforts in the Gulf of Mexico, the Sacramento NCCC campus graduates contributed their hearts and hard work to helping their fellow citizens when those individuals needed it most.

NCCC participants learn invaluable life skills, but even more important, they learn the intangible value of service. How to pass that value along to others as engaging and organizing local volunteers is an essential part of the program's effectiveness.

In the past ten months, the 440 inspiring men and women of the Western Regional Campus have completed more than 350,000 hours of service nationwide. They have shaped lives by spending 30,000 hours tutoring nearly 10,000 elementary school students. They have given hope to those who need it most by assisting more than 46,000 families in the Gulf Coast, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Oregon, and by constructing 193 new homes with Habitat for Humanity. They have been on the front lines of disaster relief by responding to 12 wildfires in California, Arizona, and New Mexico. But perhaps most important, they have taught others the tools and value of service, leveraging more than 63,000 volunteers, nearly 150 for each program participant.

Madam Speaker, these young men and women from all across the country are a shining example of the benefits of National Service. I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing the 440 graduates of the Sacramento Western Regional NCCC Campus for their hard work and invaluable service to their country. Congratulations Class XIV!

It is my sincere hope that our country's national service infrastructure will continue to